



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY
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TUESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 21, 1858.

"Fondling and proving," by means of certificates from witnesses, is commenced relative to the fight between "Hon. William H. English and Hon. William Montgomerie" in Washington on Friday last—a fight in which one struck the other with a cane, and the other "threw a brick"—&c., &c. It is presumed, of course, we suppose, that the public are vastly concerned at this affair, and want to ascertain all the interesting particulars. It is very important to know the position of the parties, the size of the cane, the *vim* of blow, the hardness of the brick, how far one advanced and how the other "retreated," and a variety of other matters. The truth is, the presumption is entirely gratuitous, as the public care nothing more about the matter than they do about a fight between any two men who are not members of Congress.

The "South Carolina" very justly remarks that the recent attempts to "invade" or "colonize" Central America, are in no sense Southern measures—in truth, they are just the reverse. When did ever the South claim that the invasion of neighboring States was one of its rights and liberties? The South, whose entire history is identified with resistance to aggression, is now invoked to revolution because a few land speculators and reckless adventurers about Mobile and New Orleans are not permitted to filibuster *ad libitum*. It is a plain issue of law and order against mobocracy; for what else is filibustering than mobocracy?

The Committee on Military Affairs of the House of Representatives has addressed a note to the Secretary of War, inquiring whether the proposed military occupation of Sonora and Chihuahua would necessitate an increase of the army. The Secretary has expressed, in reply, the very decided opinion that such a measure, so far from adding to the existing necessity for an increase of the army, would rather have the opposite effect. We do not know the particular arguments by which the Secretary has enforced this opinion in his reply to the committee, for his letter has not yet transpired.

There is more speculation than usual at so early a day, as to the next Presidency. Kentucky has three candidates—all prominent—to wit: Messrs. Guthrie, Breckinridge, and Crittenden. Mr. Breckinridge will, it is said, defer to Mr. Guthrie, and will not be in his way at the Charleston convention. At present, many persons confidently believe that either Mr. Hunter, of Virginia, or Mr. Guthrie, will be the nominee of that convention. They are the more likely, it is thought, to take a Kentucky nominee, for the reason that they fear the nomination of Mr. Crittenden by the Opposition.

A Buenos Ayres correspondent of the New York Herald, who professes to have just paid a visit to Paraguay, says that the government are strengthening all their forts; that at the fort of Itapera they have twelve hundred men under arms, and three times that number at other stations and forts on the river. He also expressed the opinion—not well justified, we conceive—that Brazil will aid Paraguay in case the United States engage in practical hostilities against the latter.

The Petersburg Democratic Convention endorsed, by resolution, the present Administration; and a few days after, the Message of the President appeared, giving the views of the administration, the most prominent of which were promptly opposed by the Richmond Enquirer, and numerous Democrats in Virginia and throughout the South.

The Washington States applauds the action of the Senate Printing Committee in its determination to reduce the amount of public printing by omitting many unnecessary details from public documents, or on which documents are bottomed. The Union goes in for the whole—"fifty-four forty or fight."

Mr. Speaker Orr, of S. C., in a letter to his constituents affirms, that he has "upon no occasion, in speeches, letters, or private conversation, ever expressed any opinion or sentiment in opposition to the strictest reading of the States-rights doctrines taught by Madison and Jefferson—the fathers of that faith."

It is said that Mr. Zollicoffer, of Tenn., will decline being a candidate for Congress again; in which event, it is probable Mr. John Bell may be elected to succeed him—and may be the next Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Senator Clingman thinks that "we have been exceedingly unfortunate in our diplomacy with regard to Central America—that we have not had what the French call, a grand succès."

Among the new entertainments produced by M. Julien, in London, is a polka, called the "Kiss," with an orchestral accompaniment which produces the effect of the smacking of lips.

The dismissed custom-house officers in New York, have had a meeting to rehearse their grievances and take measures for exposing what they allege to be the corruptions of the custom house under Collector Schell.

Daniel Webster's birth day (1st January) will be celebrated in Boston. Caleb Cushing is to preside. Many of the most distinguished men of the country have been invited to attend.

Mr. Botte, though warmly invited by many to be a candidate for Governor, has, it is said, declined the use of his name in that connexion.

Senator Pearce, of Md., will preside at the Borne celebration in Washington.

The Washington Correspondent of the Baltimore Sun says:—"The objection to the report of the House committee on Territories of the Oregon State bill, has been removed. Gov. Smith has, it is said, withdrawn his objections. When the bill comes before the House it will meet with opposition, and the republicans will, it is said, attempt to attach to it a Kansas enabling act. The prospect is that the bill will pass in the form in which it comes from the Senate. There is a growing feeling in and out of Congress against the admission of any more rotten borough States, crowding the Senate, and neutralizing the influence of the great States of Georgia and Virginia, and of Pennsylvania and New York. The choice of a President in 1860 may be determined by the vote of the single representative from Kansas or Oregon, which would be a gross injustice to the great central States."

The Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal Company have published their third annual report, exhibiting a prosperous progress so far, with a hopeful prospect in the immediate future. The object of this company, in connexion with the Delaware and Chesapeake and the Delaware and Raritan Canals, is to furnish an inland navigation for sailing and steam vessels between New York city and Newbern, in North Carolina, a distance of about six hundred miles, free from the impediments of sandbars and shallow inlets, and the dangers of Cape Hatteras, so justly the terror of all navigators, on the coast of North Carolina. Little remains to be done but the completion of a lock at the junction of the canal with the Elizabeth river, which will be effected by the first of March next.

The proposed convocation of Agriculturalists in Washington, called by the Secretary of the Interior, is warmly opposed by the Washington States, which paper regards it as a stretch of power, and declares that "perhaps the power to scatter seed over the country through the instrumentality of the mail, may be thought a logical deduction from the right to issue official publications; but it is an absurd exaggeration to pretend that this narrow authority warrants a convocation of agriculturalists on the summons of a secretary, and at the expense of the government." The States says, "the fact that such an extraordinary measure is ventured upon, without any without any critical observation, implies a manifestly decay in the spirit of the State-rights party."

On Friday night last, the Quincy School House, situated on Tyler street, Boston, was destroyed by fire. The philosophical instruments were saved, but the school-room furniture was destroyed, and also a valuable piano in one of the upper rooms. The fire is supposed to have caught from a defective flue. The school house was a large four-story structure, and was erected about ten years ago. Four years ago it was entirely remodelled, and the probable cost of the building was between twenty and thirty thousand dollars.

The New York correspondent of the National Intelligencer says, that the news from Central America, which for a little while created a "sensation," has had but little effect, and everybody seems now satisfied that the country will pass another year of peace. No danger appears to be apprehended from recent events in the Gulf of Mexico. The disclaimers of the British officers are deemed altogether sufficient, and nobody expects Congress to do anything during this short session beyond giving greater efficiency to our national defences, especially the navy.

There was a wine auction in Philadelphia on Wednesday. The prices ranged thus: Vintage of 1859, \$9 per gallon; vintage of '54, \$17.50 per gallon; vintage of 1860, \$10 per gallon; a four-gallon demijohn of "Butter wine," \$20 per gallon—estimated, with interest added, to have cost the man who sold it \$85 per gallon. A lot of golden sherry, imported in 1826, brought \$6 a gallon; two half-gallon jars of Madeira, imported in 1807, brought \$22. A lot of old whiskey brought \$12 a gallon—the aggregate sale reaching \$6,500.

The New York City Councils have, by a unanimous vote, tendered the honors of the city to Senator Douglas, who will arrive there this week. This ovation will be followed by another ovation from the city of Philadelphia. The Senator is expected to arrive in Washington about the 1st of January. It is not believed that the rumor of a declaration from him that he will not be a candidate for the Presidency in 1860, has any foundation. There is nothing in his position that seems to call for such a declaration.

There was a furious outbreak at a circus, at Rio, on the 1st ult., in consequence of the disappointment caused by the contemptible character of the performances, in comparison with what had been promised, especially in reference to a bull fight. The place was literally torn to pieces, and the company utterly routed, notwithstanding great efforts on the part of the police to restore order. Many other missiles thrown, and one part of the place caught fire, which was extinguished with great difficulty.

The New York politicians and federal office holders have closed their business in Washington, in a satisfactory manner. The Tammany organization was strongly represented, as was also the opposition. The result of the appeals of both factions to the President, is an agreement that the Tammany organization shall hereafter prevail and be respected in the distribution of federal patronage. Hereafter, as is alleged, the vast patronage of the collector has been bestowed upon the opponents of Tammany.

The Norfolk Day Book says that James Crawley left Baltimore and walked to Washington, thence to Alexandria, thence to Fredericksburg, thence to Richmond, thence to Petersburg, thence to Smithfield, thence to Portsmouth, and from Portsmouth to Norfolk. He took lodgings in the water-house and started south for Charleston, S. C. The strangest part of the matter is that he is blind.

The trial of Messrs. Allibone and Newhall, charged with defrauding the stockholders of the Bank of Pennsylvania, was concluded on Saturday. The case was submitted without argument, and the jury, without leaving the box, rendered a verdict of "not guilty."

Among the recent deaths in California, we note the following: In San Francisco, Nov. 9, Henry Chevallier, aged 32, youngest son of the late Peter Chevallier of Richmond; at Bodega, Nov. 8, H. C. Cope, jr., aged 35, formerly of Philadelphia.

In the Clarke County Items, in yesterday's Gazette, first paragraph, for *Brentsville*, read *Berryville*.

News of the Day.

"To show the very age and body of the times." The specie shipment from New York on Saturday, by the City of Washington, was only \$173,000, and by the Bremen \$65,000, mostly to Havre. The demand is chiefly for France, as the present rate of sterling is such as to admit of no profit if insurance is effected. By the *Perla* on Wednesday, a favorite boat with gold shippers, there is expected to be a fair amount shipped, as mint bars forwarded without insurance will pay about 1 per cent profit.

The Augusta Ga. Sentinel, learns from reliable authority that about two hundred and seventy of the West Africans, a portion of the cargo of the "Wanderer," are now on a plantation in South Carolina, on the Savannah river, having been brought there two days ago, on board a steamboat, from some point near Savannah, and will soon be offered for sale. Sales have already been made of some of the cargo.

Of the many frauds, constantly practised upon the revenue of the Post office Department, there is none, perhaps deserving of more pointed condemnation than the custom, of late years so prevalent of using borrowed strings to cover private correspondence. Stringent measures will be taken in all cases where such offences can, by any possibility be traced to the guilty parties.

The Academy of Natural Sciences of New York, are co-operating with a general movement which is now on foot to ascertain the comparative physical strength, size, &c., of men in the United States and Europe. A certain set of scientific tests have been provided, by which the strength and general condition can be ascertained.

At a Methodist festival in Warren, Mass., the floor gave way and about 200 persons fell through into a store below, a woman rushed from the place to a neighboring store, exclaiming: "I am scared to death!" when she returned, and remaining in an unconscious state, expired at 2 o'clock on Thursday morning.

An advertisement has been issued by the Secretary of the Treasury for proposals for the remaining ten millions of the last 5 per cent loan, with fifteen years to run. They are to be presented at the Department on or before the 24th of January, and the payment to be made by the 15th of March.

Morgan L. Brown, a policeman of Troy, New York, has been arrested for counterfeiting. A number of photographic plates and dies for altering notes of various denominations, and a press, were found in his house. The business has been extensively carried on for two or three years past.

The Arabia brings advice of the loss of the ship *St. Petersburg*, which was abandoned at sea while on her voyage from Glasgow to Bombay. The officers and crew were rescued and brought to Liverpool. The *St. Petersburg* was quite an old ship, was owned in Boston.

Over thirteen hundred barrels of apples have been shipped from East Haddam, Connecticut, within the last few weeks, and, at the same time over seventy thousand gallons of cider have been sent off.

Several leaders of the Democracy concede the probable success of the opposition in 1860 if there be any union of the elements which compose it, upon a fair and conservative platform.

The Odeon Theatre, in the Bowery, New York, was burnt on Saturday afternoon. The Volks Gardens and some other adjoining buildings were on fire.

Some inaccurate representations having found their way into one or two of the papers respecting an informal political meeting which was lately held in this city, by a number of gentlemen from different parts of the country, it appears to us proper, from the character of those concerned, that the true nature of the conference and its objects should be correctly given to the public. We therefore present the annexed statement from an authentic source:

A number of gentlemen from all sections of the country, and heretofore co-operating with different political organizations, having found it expedient to hold a political meeting in relation to the open Polar Sea, in which they were to discuss the expediency of such a sea in the following language:

"I beg to add a word with regard to Dr. Hayes' expedition. I consider it as highly important, not only in a scientific point of view, but particularly so for the interests of the whole country. The organization of this expedition, in the opinion of the speakers, seems to me to furnish the most direct proof that there is an open sea in the Arctic. The whales being warm blooded, and breathing animals, must come to the surface to breathe. They cannot live without it. Now it is well known that during the winter they are not found outside—that is to the South of the ice-bar of the Arctic sea. They are found in the open ocean, and in that fact, and the whole extent of that Arctic sea was covered with ice they would necessarily perish during the long winter. I do not know a more direct evidence of the presence of extensive open water in the northernmost region of the globe, than the mode of life of the whales, and the discovery of a passage into that open water which would render whale fishing possible during the winter would be a great improvement of whale hunting. The argument may not strike forcibly one who is not acquainted with the structure of the whales, but to a physiologist it must be irresistible."

A VETERAN FIDELIST.—A short time since, an elderly gentleman, whose movements indicated he was not an experienced traveler, was in the day train between Boston and New York. After passing Springfield, and crossing the Connecticut River, he made the enquiry, whenever the cars stopped, "Is this Hartford?" At length the stationer said, "This is Hartford." At length the old gentleman informed him of the fact, presuming from the interest he had evinced at Hartford, that he intended to stop at that place. Quietly removing his hat, he said, "I was an old-fashioned Federalist, and would remain with his head uncovered, and would speak in the name of respect to the noble and glorious political principles connected with the memorable Convention held at that place, December 15, 1814."—*Boston Transcript*, December 15th.

[There were many Federalists—thousands of them—who never approved of the Hartford Convention, and would not have been like this old gentleman,—if there is any truth in the story.]

LIUT. STRAIN'S POSTHUMOUS PAPERS.—On the death of Lieut. Strain, his scientific instruments, his journals, and all his personal effects were brought to this port where they were placed among unclaimed goods, and after the usual interval, were advertised for sale. A letter was addressed to the Navy Department soliciting information in regard to the family or relatives of Lieut. Strain, in order that they might be apprised of his death, and the position of his remains, and be returned to them. An answer has been received, to the effect that Lieut. Strain is not aware, that Lieut. Strain departed from this world, by the order of the Collector the effects of Lieut. Strain have been withdrawn from the public sale of unclaimed goods, in the hope that some one may appear authorized to take them in charge.—*N. Y. Com.*

Foreign Items.

A Paris correspondent states positively that the Czar of Russia, with a full military household, will visit Napoleon in the spring, and will extend his visit to England.

There have been large investments in green tea for America, at extraordinary prices, by speculation.

The Paris correspondent of the London News says:—"It is true that a battalion of infantry and three batteries of artillery, with horses and equipments, complete for service, will embark at Toulon immediately for the coast of Central America."

Paris letters assert on the authority of M. Lesaupe's friends, that he has obtained subscriptions in France alone for the purchase of the eight million pounds requisite for the cutting a Canal through the Isthmus of Suez. The assertion, however, is not generally credited.

The ship owners of England are exceedingly clamorous in consequence of a depression of business, and were holding meetings on the subject in various parts of the kingdom.

Several anti-confessional meetings had been held in Exeter and Derby, at which addresses to the Queen were drawn up against certain serious innovations which had been attempted to be introduced into the church of England.

A letter from Paris to the 21st inst. states that on that day Montalembert, accompanied by Barry and Dufour, presented himself at the register's office in that city, for the purpose of lodging an appeal against the sentence which had been pronounced against him. It was considered doubtful whether the pardon of the Emperor would effectually remove the liability of Montalembert being transported at any time the officers of justice might see fit.

Letters from Belgium announce that a new penal code was before the Chamber of Representatives, the object of which was to increase the punishment of those writers for the press who might be found guilty of attacks upon the law or the authority of the King.

Telegraphic advices from Berlin of the 21st inst. report that the Jews of Prussia had addressed a petition to the Prince Regent praying his Royal Highness to interpose with the Holy See by the aid of diplomacy, to obtain, if possible, the restoration of the child Mortara to his parents.

Down and Up.

In the year 1819, a young man who was rich, and engaged in a lucrative business in Cincinnati, became enamored of a beautiful and amiable girl—the daughter, by the way, of wealthy parents—and after a brief courtship married her. He loved her dearly; she loved him dearly. A life of happiness seemed to stare them; but evil days came, and after a brief but violent struggle with fortune, the young man found himself a bankrupt. He was left without a dollar, but not without a home. The old mines of California were open to the adventurous and industrious. He would leave his beautiful wife and seek his glittering shores, where he would remain until his fallen fortunes were revived. He came to California, but the clouds still hung over him. He was active, enterprising, and persevering; yet while others around him were gathering the golden harvest in abundance, his every effort failed. For eight years he continued thus. He became sick, weary, and disheartened, but his pride would not allow him to write home for assistance. He was at last reduced to sell newspapers upon the streets for a living.

A few weeks ago he was at Folsom street wharf, upon the arrival of the mail steamer, and among the passengers who came ashore, he caught a glimpse of a richly-dressed lady, whom he thought he knew. He followed her to a hotel, got a fair view, and recognized her as his wife, whom he had not seen for eight years. He was poorly dressed, but his affections quickened his pride, and he hastily made himself known to her. The recognition was followed by a beautiful exhibition of unabated and unfeeling love. The lady's countenance, having died, had been an heiress of great wealth. She had not heard of her husband for eight years, and fearing for his safety, she resolved to visit this State and make enquiries for herself. The lady closed her conversation with her husband by putting her arms round his neck, and saying:

"Now, dear George, we can go home and be happy, as we used to be. They told me the steamer which left last May. This story is strictly true.—*California Spirit of the Times*."

THE OPEN POLAR SEA.—Dr. Hayes, in his address before the Geographical Society, on Thursday evening, read a paper from Prof. Agassiz, in relation to the open Polar Sea, in which the gentleman argued the existence of such a sea in the following language:

"I beg to add a word with regard to Dr. Hayes' expedition. I consider it as highly important, not only in a scientific point of view, but particularly so for the interests of the whole country. The organization of this expedition, in the opinion of the speakers, seems to me to furnish the most direct proof that there is an open sea in the Arctic. The whales being warm blooded, and breathing animals, must come to the surface to breathe. They cannot live without it. Now it is well known that during the winter they are not found outside—that is to the South of the ice-bar of the Arctic sea. They are found in the open ocean, and in that fact, and the whole extent of that Arctic sea was covered with ice they would necessarily perish during the long winter. I do not know a more direct evidence of the presence of extensive open water in the northernmost region of the globe, than the mode of life of the whales, and the discovery of a passage into that open water which would render whale fishing possible during the winter would be a great improvement of whale hunting. The argument may not strike forcibly one who is not acquainted with the structure of the whales, but to a physiologist it must be irresistible."

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NEW ORLEANS SUGAR.—20 lbs. new crop New Orleans Sugar, in store, and for sale by [see 10-2w] T. A. BREWSTER & CO.

60 BARRELS GAMBRIEL'S FAMILY FLOUR, this day received, and for sale by [see 10-2w] ROBINSON & PAYNE.

Letter from Robert E. Scott, Esq.

In answer to a letter from a number of the voters of this city, requesting him to allow his name to be brought before this District, as a candidate for Congress, Mr. Robert E. Scott has written the following letter, which will be read with interest. It is a straight forward, manly, and independent letter, characteristic of the man, and while some of the views expressed may not meet with the acquiescence of all, the author and letter will be none the less appreciated.

OAKWOOD, Dec. 13th, 1858.—Messrs. A. D. Warfield and Messrs. GENTLEMEN:—I received your communication of the 10th inst., on yesterday, and return my acknowledgments for the kind feelings that prompted it. Similar propositions have been made to me from other quarters, and my name has also been several times mentioned in the papers in the same connexion.

If I had any desire for a seat in the House of Representatives, engagements, private and professional, put it out of my power to devote to a canvass the time which the extent of this Congressional District would necessarily require, and, without an active canvass, I should do injustice both to my friends and myself. But, in truth, I have no such desire. When this country was composed of a Whig and a Democrat, and we had a Whig party in active life, I several times declined nominations by conventions of my political associates, when a nomination was equivalent to an election. I preferred a service in the State Legislature, when opportunities for usefulness there presented themselves. In common with my fellow-citizens of this part of the State, I felt very strongly the want of a system of roads adequate to the transportation of the products of our soil to market, and I devoted my labors to supply that want. When that was accomplished, I voluntarily retired from the Legislature, and have never since felt a desire for political action.

But, apart from these considerations, I do not think that, with my opinion of our political servitude, and my views of the political exigencies of the country, I would, in any satisfactory manner, represent this Congressional District. Certainly, in respect to past issues, I have differed very widely from the gentleman whom the voters of the District have honored with their confidence, and I do not think that we are likely to concur as to many that are to arise in the future.

The field is already occupied by two gentlemen of the Whig party, whose opinions as to our Federal policy are supposed to harmonize with those of the majority of the voters, and it, in this condition of things, I could be successful in running in between the two, I could not regard the success as desirable. To be the choice of the District, to have the confidence of the voters, and to be elected so as to employ a proper representative independence as to the duties pertaining to the station, would tend very greatly to make a seat in the State Legislature honorable and worthy of ambition. But in the present state of our politics, this seems impossible—partyism usurps the place of patriotism; idleness to party dogmas takes precedence of statesmanship; and the representative who would keep his place in the ever pressing necessity of taking observations of these, and shift his course according to the quarter in which they appear. He must subscribe implicitly to platforms constructed for election purposes, and ingeniously fashioned to meet the conflicting exigencies of different localities. To be popular with the democracy, he must to the political party, whose opinions as to our Federal policy are supposed to harmonize with those of the majority of the voters, and it, in this condition of things, I could be successful in running in between the two, I could not regard the success as desirable. To be the choice of the District, to have the confidence of the voters, and to be elected so as to employ a proper representative independence as to the duties pertaining to the station, would tend very greatly to make a seat in the State Legislature honorable and worthy of ambition. 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